



12D/11N EPIC
ANTARCTICA
JOURNEY:
CLASSIC DRAKE PASSAGE
EXPEDITION FROM USHUAIA



ITINERARY

DAY BY DAY



This 12 day journey combines the cultural allure of Buenos Aires with an unforgettable expedition aboard the **Ocean Victory** to the Antarctic Peninsula and South Shetland Islands. From exploring Argentina's vibrant capital to navigating icy waterways, encountering abundant wildlife, and witnessing some of the planet's most pristine landscapes, this adventure delivers the perfect blend of urban sophistication and polar exploration.

📍 DAY 1 – ARRIVAL IN BUENOS AIRES (JANUARY 28, 2026)

Upon arrival in Buenos Aires, an English-speaking guide greets you and provides seamless transport to your hotel in Palermo Soho. After settling in, the city invites you to explore its European elegance, lively neighborhoods, and rich culture. You may choose to stroll along grand boulevards, enjoy a tango show, or savor local cuisine as you ease into your adventure. This first day introduces you to the energy and charm of Argentina's captivating capital. Overnight at Pleno Palermo Soho Hotel.

📍 DAY 2 – BUENOS AIRES TO USHUAIA & EMBARKATION (JANUARY 29, 2026)

After breakfast, your guide accompanies you to the airport for your flight to Ushuaia. Upon arrival, you make your own way to your pre-arranged lodging and have time to explore the world's southernmost city. With snow-capped mountains, forests, and coastal scenery, Ushuaia offers plenty of opportunities for walking, sightseeing, or even venturing into Tierra del Fuego's untamed landscapes. In the afternoon, you board the Ocean Victory and complete a mandatory safety drill. Your expedition begins as the ship sails through the scenic Beagle Channel, a historic gateway to countless explorations, where marine wildlife such as whales and dolphins often appear.

DAY 3–4 – DRAKE PASSAGE SOUTHBOUND (JANUARY 30–31, 2026)

Your voyage continues into the Drake Passage, a stretch of ocean renowned for its strong winds and storied maritime history. Purpose-built for expedition travel, the Ocean Victory provides comfort and stability as you cross these iconic waters. During these days, the Expedition Leader delivers comprehensive briefings on Antarctic exploration, environmental protocols, and wildlife observation techniques. The Expedition Team assists with biosecurity procedures and offers enriching lectures on geology, glaciology, wildlife, and historical expeditions. As you enter the Antarctic Convergence, the temperature drops and wildlife sightings increase, albatrosses, petrels, seals, and whales may appear. Conditions permitting, an early landing in the South Shetland Islands may mark your first step onto Antarctic terrain.

DAY 5–8 – SOUTH SHETLAND ISLANDS & ANTARCTIC PENINSULA (FEBRUARY 1–4, 2026)

These days are dedicated to exploring the South Shetland Islands and the Gerlache Strait region of the Antarctic Peninsula. The South Shetlands impress with rugged volcanic landscapes and thriving wildlife, including Gentoo and Chinstrap penguin colonies and large seabirds such as Giant Petrels. Possible visits include the volcanic caldera of Deception Island, the bustling rookeries of Aitcho or Half Moon Islands, and scenic anchorages like Yankee Harbour. Continuing south into the Antarctic Peninsula, towering glaciers, massive icebergs, and dramatic peaks create breathtaking scenery. Landings and Zodiac excursions may take you to sites such as Cuverville Island, Neko Harbour, Paradise Bay, and historic locations like Damoy Point. Whale encounters, iceberg-filled waters, and panoramic vistas define each day. Evening briefings help you understand the next day's plans and deepen your appreciation of the unique ecosystems around you. Flexibility is essential, as weather and ice conditions shape the adventure, offering lectures, relaxation, or spa time when conditions prevent landings.

DAY 9–10 – DRAKE PASSAGE NORTHBOUND (FEBRUARY 5–6, 2026)

Departing **Antarctica**, the ship makes its way north across the Drake Passage toward Ushuaia. These days offer the perfect opportunity to reflect on your experiences while enjoying lectures, social gatherings, and relaxation onboard. Sip cocktails in the Nordic Bar, attend informative sessions in the Shackleton Lounge, or watch albatrosses glide gracefully over the waves. On your final evening, enjoy the Farewell Cocktail Party and a photo and video presentation that captures the highlights of your journey.

DAY 11 – RETURN TO USHUAIA & BUENOS AIRES (FEBRUARY 7, 2026)

The ship arrives in Ushuaia in the morning, where you disembark after breakfast. The contrast of lively streets and green landscapes feels surreal after your Antarctic experience. You then make your own way to the airport for your flight to Buenos Aires. Upon arrival, an English-speaking guide greets you and provides a smooth transfer to your hotel, where you can rest and reflect on your extraordinary adventure.

DAY 12 – DEPARTURE (FEBRUARY 8, 2026)

Following breakfast at your hotel, an English-speaking guide meets you for your transfer to the international airport. This marks the conclusion of your journey, though you may choose to extend your stay and continue exploring Argentina.



RATES

From \$9,200.00
per person



Includes

- 10-day cruise with shared double stateroom and private ensuite
- Shuttle transfers between Ushuaia city center/airport and the vessel
- All guided Zodiac excursions and landings
- Expedition parka and loaned rubber boots
- Daily briefings and lectures by the English-speaking Expedition Team
- Full board onboard: all meals, snacks, and 24/7 tea and coffee
- House wine, beer, and soft drinks included with dinner
- Taxes and landing fees
- Welcome and Farewell Cocktail Parties
- Digital post-voyage visual journal with logs, photos, and species lists



Not Includes

- Extra excursions and activities not mentioned in the itinerary
- Single room supplement and stateroom upgrades
- Meals not on board the ship
- Beverages (other than coffee and tea)
- Tips for the crew (we recommend USD 16 per person per day)
- Personal expenses (e.g. Albatros Polar Spa services, Albatros Ocean Boutique purchases)
- Anything not mentioned under 'Inclusions'

Hotels:

Buenos Aires: Pleno Palermo Soho Hotel

Cruises:

Ushuaia: Aboard **Ocean Victory**

HIGHLIGHTS

- Voyage aboard the Ocean Victory through the Drake Passage and Antarctic Peninsula.
- Wildlife encounters featuring penguins, whales, seals, and seabirds.
- Zodiac landings offering close-up views of glaciers, icebergs, and historic sites.
- Exploration of volcanic Deception Island and iconic Gerlache Strait landscapes.
- Cultural immersion in Buenos Aires before and after your Antarctic expedition.

TRAVEL TIPS

- Protect your electronic devices with waterproof cases or dry bags during Zodiac excursions.
- Wear multiple layers to adjust quickly to changing temperatures and wind conditions.
- Use motion-sickness remedies proactively if you are sensitive to rough seas.

WEATHER PREPAREDNESS

Antarctic weather is dynamic and unpredictable, with rapid shifts in wind and visibility. Bring insulated base layers, waterproof outerwear, warm gloves, hats, and UV-protective sunglasses. In Buenos Aires, late January is hot and summery, so lightweight clothing, sun protection, and breathable fabrics are ideal.

Fitness Requirements

Moderate mobility is required for Zodiac embarkations, walking on snowy or uneven terrain, and navigating ship gangways. A basic fitness level will help you enjoy daily landings and shore activities safely and comfortably.

FAQS

1. How flexible is the itinerary in Antarctica?

Very flexible, weather, ice, and wildlife conditions determine daily landing sites. The Expedition Leader adapts plans to ensure the safest and most rewarding experiences.

2. Will I see penguins and whales?

Yes. The region is home to Gentoo, Chinstrap, and sometimes Adélie penguins, as well as humpback, minke, and orca whales, plus seals and abundant seabirds.

3. What is a typical day like during the expedition?

A day often includes Zodiac excursions, shore walks, wildlife viewing, and scenic ship cruising, complemented by lectures and briefings. Evenings are spent relaxing, socializing, or enjoying presentations from the Expedition Team.



LATIN TRAILS

Dream, Discover, Live Ecuador

www.latintrails.com